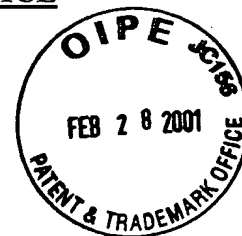


PATENT

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Pre Am 4A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: NICHOLS ET AL. Docket: P8863.00
Serial No.: 09/750,739 Group Art: 2623
Filed: DECEMBER 29, 2000 Examiner: UNKNOWN
Title: USER AUTHENTICATION IN MEDICAL DEVICE SYSTEMS



Box Non-Fee Amendment
Honorable Commissioner
for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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MAR 02 2001

Technology Center 2600

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following amendment before consideration of the above-referenced patent application.

In the Specification

At page 1, line 27, please insert:

-- The present invention is compatible and complementary with the elements disclosed in the following pending applications: "Medical System Having Improved Telemetry," filed July 19, 1999, Ser. No. 09/356,340; "System and Method for Transferring Information Relating to an Implantable Medical Device to a Remote Location," filed on July 21, 1999, Ser. No. 09/358,081; "Apparatus and Method for Remote Troubleshooting, Maintenance and Upgrade of Implantable Device Systems," filed on October 26, 1999, Ser. No. 09/426,741; "Tactile Feedback for Indicating Validity of Communication Link with an Implantable Medical Device," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/430,708; "Apparatus and Method for Automated Invoicing of Medical Device Systems," filed October 29, 1999, Ser. No. 09/429; "Apparatus and Method for Remote